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02/27/02 12:46 PM

To: jgreis@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Completing SFRA analysis

Mr. John Greis

Dear Mr. John Greis,

This is a comment on the draft of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA). I believe that the SFRA needs to further examine the potential impact of the forest industry trends on the ecological and/or socio-economic sustainability of forests in the Southeast. For example, the study identifies 14 "critically endangered" forest communities and many more imperiled species, but does not analyze the ecological impact caused by proposed, intensive forest management. More attention also should be paid regarding wetlands, wildlife, water quality, etc.

In addition, the SFRA's focus on timber sustainability leaves many issues unexamined. For example, (1) how many additional acres of protected forests are needed to supply demand for public recreation due to increasing recreation pressure on public lands in the southern Appalachian forests, and 2) with respect to local economies, how will forest-dependent communities fare as the wood products industry intensifies management and automates more processing facilities?

I hope that your agency will consider addressing these and other issues in the final version of the report.

Sincerely,

David Eanes
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